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CONSTANCIO PINTO *NOT* ARRESTED

Take action to protect his wife, who has been repeatedly arrested and interrogated.

Indonesian military sources claim that Constancio Pinto, one of the organizers of the November 12, 1991, Dili demonstration in East Timor, was arrested in Dili last Saturday while visiting family. This has been echoed by wire services and television in Portugal and Australia.

THIS IS NOT TRUE.

In fact, Constancio Pinto was looking over my shoulder as I type the first version of this alert on Monday morning in New York. He has been out of East Timor and Indonesia since last October, and is on a seven-week speaking tour, carrying the message of the Timorese people to cities throughout the United States and Canada. The Indonesian authorities know very well that he is no longer in East Timor; in early March he testified in their presence before the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

However, his wife, Gabriela Lopes da Cruz Pinto, was arrested by the Army in Dili on the morning of Monday, April 12. She was interrogated at the Colmera military headquarters (SGI), and released, but told to return to the Army that evening. Since then, she has been interrogated several times about Constancio's whereabouts and ordered to report daily for further questioning. This is severe harassment, intended to pressure her husband to stop his activities on behalf of East Timorese self-determination.

Since Constancio is not in East Timor, there is nothing his wife can tell them. Please tell the Indonesian authorities to leave her alone. The International Committee for the Red Cross has asked that Mrs. Pinto and their one-year-old son (whom Constancio has never met, as he was born after Constancio was forced to go into hiding), be allowed to join Constancio Pinto in Lisbon.

Please send an immediate fax to the Commander of the Armed Forces in Jakarta at 62-21-36-1471, 62-21-37-8144 or 62-21-35-6404. You can also fax President Suharto at 62-21-36-0517, 62-21-36-7781, or 62-21-36-7782. Contact the Indonesian Embassy in your country as well. The Indonesian Ambassador to the United States is Abdul Rachman Ramly, and his telephone number is (202)775-5200, fax (202)775-5365. The Indonesian Embassy is at 2020 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036.